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**Inspiring video captures the moment a biker 'paralysed' after breaking his back in a horrific crash defies doctors to stand up on his 30th birthday**

* **Andrew Bell, 30, was told he would never walk again after the crash**
* **Found a private clinic in Thailand offering specialist treatment**
* **Began treatment - including having a chip put in his back - last month**
* **Has now posted a video of himself standing up on his 30th video**

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A man told he'd never walk again after a motorbike accident has defied doctors to stand up on his 30th birthday - and celebrated by sending a moving video of it to his loved ones.

Andrew Bell was left wheelchair bound with a broken back following a horrific crash in May.

The outlook was grave with doctors giving him the devastating news he would be paralysed for life -unable to walk down the aisle with girlfriend Helen or play with his nephew.

His heartbreak soon turned to determination and he vowed to defy medics and stand up on the milestone birthday.

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**Scroll down for video**

**Andrew Bell, 30, has fulfilled a promise to his loved ones by standing up on his 30th birthday, seven months after doctors said he would never walk again following a horrific motorbike crash**

Now, Mr Bell, of Durham, is proud to have fulfilled his promise, sending his family and friends a video of himself standing up from his wheelchair with a sign saying 'Thank you'.

Speaking in the video, Mr Bell said: 'Today is my 30th birthday and the best present I could have asked for would be to stand here, talking proud.

'I want to say the biggest thanks to everyone back at home for their support, and obviously everyone at the hospital as well.

'I couldn't have done it without you.'

Mr Bell, a former risk and compliance executive said his mother, Moira, 57, was in floods of tears after watching it.

'She couldn't believe it. She said it was a miracle. She never thought she'd see me stand up again,' he said.

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'My dad Alistair, 60, was emotional too. He said what I'm achieving is beyond his wildest dreams.

'Even the staff here have been taken aback by my outcomes.

'I have caused a lot of people a lot of heartache - through no fault of my own - but they've all done a lot for me and it's gone a long way.

Last May, Mr Bell's life was turned upside down when he was part of a horrific motorbike accident.

He was left with four fractured ribs, a dislocated breastbone, a fractured eye socket, a punctured right lung and two fractures to his spine.

He said: 'I was on the road on a sunny day, coming round a corner, and had a collision with a car.

'I remember the sound and being on the floor and saying: "I can't feel my legs" and the next thing I knew I was hospital.'

**After the crash in May, Mr Bell underwent emergency surgery and had two metal rods inserted into his back – but was told it was likely he would be in a wheelchair for life. He is pictured in hospital after the accident**

**Instead of becoming dejected, Mr Bell flew to a specialist clinic in Bangkok, Thailand, where he had a pioneering operation in which a microchip was put into his back (pictured) to stimulate the spinal cord and allow his legs to move again**

**Mr Bell also underwent intense physiotherapy. He is pictured walking on a treadmill with the help of a supportive sling**

He underwent emergency surgery at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle where he had two metal rods inserted into his back – but was told it was likely he would be in a wheelchair for life.

Initially he was dejected, until he began searching for treatments and came across an article about a young quadriplegic boy who'd stem cell treatment and was able to stand after four weeks.

He flew to the Better Being Hospital in Bangkok, who offered such treatments, and began intensive physiotherapy on November 6.

*I remember the sound and being on the floor and saying: "I can't feel my legs" and the next thing I knew I was hospital.'*

**Andrew Bell, 30**

Then, on November 17 he underwent a pioneering procedure called epidural stimulating surgery, which saw doctors insert a microchip into his back.

The chip applies a continuous electrical current to the lower part of the spinal cord, and when it is switched on sensory stimulations allow paralysed people to move their legs.

Mr Bell is also set to have 120 million stem cells injected into his back over eight injections, six of which he has already had.

He is the first person in the world to have this treatment, which is provided by a company called Global Stem Cells and costs more than £50,000, at such an early stage since his accident.

He has also been undergoing Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment, breathing pure oxygen at a higher than atmospheric pressure in an enclosed chamber, which is thought to restore function to damaged cells and organs.

On top of this, Mr Bell has acupuncture once a week, and sessions of transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), where an electronic stimulation machine sends signals from the brain to his legs, three times a week.

**Mr Bell is pictured with staff at the Better Being Hospital in Bangkok, where he received treatment. He said: 'The physiotherapists and staff here are phenomenal. They're all so kind and professional. They call me superman. I now know I will walk again'**

**Mr Bell, pictured in hospital following the accident (left),  is now also undergoing Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment, breathing pure oxygen at a higher than atmospheric pressure in an enclosed chamber, which is thought to restore function to damaged cells and organs**

On December 5 – three days before his 30th birthday – he surpassed all expectations and took his first steps, walking for several minutes on a treadmill while in a supportive sling.

He said: 'At the time I didn't have the opportunity to take it in because I was so in the zone concentrating, but when I took a breath and watched the video back I choked up.

'Months ago I was given less than five per cent chance of walking again, and now I've taken my first official steps.

'I managed to send a video message home on my birthday while standing so I met my goal.

'I have had to learn how to walk again like a baby.

'I set myself a goal every day that today has to be better than yesterday.'

At first, he said there were a lot of question marks surrounding his treatment at the Better Being Hospital, but now feels there are no more.

His routine there has been regimented, but he sees it as a once in a lifetime opportunity and says medical staff in Bangkok have been prepared to go the extra mile with him as they see great potential.

**Mr Bell was formerly part of a Jiu Jitsu club and played football. He wants to return to his passions. He said: 'I have my dreams written down which I look at all the time – to walk again, to be able to go back to doing jiu jitsu, to be able to stand when I get married and have children of my own'**

**Mr Bell, pictured with his brother Rory, says he misses his family greatly, but believes staying in hospital over Christmas to continue treatment will aid his recover**

He was scheduled to return home on December 16, but is in discussions with the medical staff about prolonging his treatment for another three weeks as it has proved so successful so far.

He said: 'The hospital staff have said I'm the first person to have stood, walked and been able to hold my weight.

'They are keen for me to stay longer for medical research purposes as well.'

Adding more weeks onto his treatment would mean Mr Bell missing Christmas back home - but he says it's worth it.

'I have hopefully got another 40 Christmases to spend at home, so spending Christmas here to be able to walk again isn't even a question for me,' he said.

'It would be the best Christmas gift ever.

'I'm working with experts here, and it's the only place in the world that provides this sort of treatment.

'The goal is to take steps without the sling before I leave Thailand – I'd like to walk on crutches.'

**Mr Bell will stay in Thailand for another three weeks, and is excited to go home and see his mother Moira, 57, and play with his nephew, Charlie, 22 months, again**

Although he is focused on his recovery, Mr Bell said he misses his family very much.

He said: 'I've missed my nephew Charlie, 22 months, a great deal, but to think when I get home I can stand and hold him and play with him again just reminds me of why I'm here.

'I've missed my girlfriend Helen and her family, as well as my own family and friends but I send them all daily updates.

'I have my dreams written down which I look at all the time – to walk again, to be able to go back to doing jiu jitsu, to be able to stand when I get married and have children of my own.'

As part of the film, which he posted to Facebook, Mr Bell also thanked staff at the Better Being Hospital, Bangkok, where he received his treatment.

He said: 'The physiotherapists and staff here are phenomenal. They're all so kind and professional. They call me superman.

'I now know I will walk again.'

Now, Mr Bell wants to become a UK ambassador for Global Stem Cells, the company that uses stem cells to treat spinal cord injuries and other chronic conditions.

Mr Bell said he wants to raise awareness that such treatments exist.

He said: 'My poor mum and girlfriend were shattered after the accident, but if they knew then there were treatments people had done which allowed them to walk again, I know it would have made a difference,' he said.

'I'm going to try and organise for Global Stem Cells to do a road show around rehab clinics in the UK to raise awareness there are options out there.

'I'm living proof that you can believe in yourself.'

To donate to Mr Bell's page, visit [**www.gofundme.com/andrew-bell**](https://proxy-nl.hide.me/go.php?u=34WuiKUu9mhaChasQAcTX7%2FqnGwZ4RoKUQwgJnec8w%3D%3D&b=5)